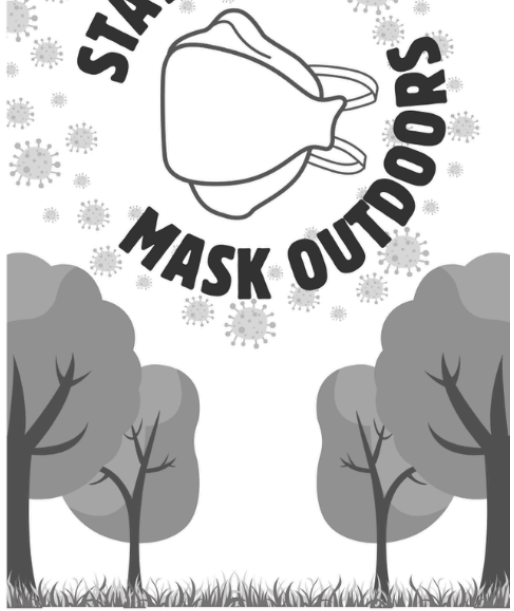
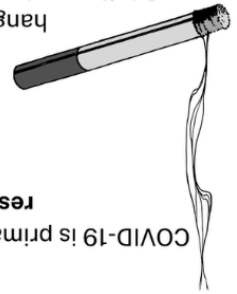
STAY SAFE, MASK OUTDOORS



a mini zine by Mask Bloc Seattle

COVID MOVES LIKE SMOKE

COVID-19 is primarily spread through **respiratory droplets & aerosol particles** (which are smaller than droplets).



indoors, it can hang in the air for hours, & it lingers in the air outdoors, too.

think about being near someone who's smoking:

you can smell it when you pass them or walk behind them, & it might linger, especially if there isn't a breeze.

A VISUALIZATION

N95s/KN95s CAN PROTECT YOU
WHEN SOMEONE WITH COVID IS NOT WEARING A MASK.
WALKING 4.5 FEET PER SECOND. (NORMAL SPEED)
6 FEET
THIS MEANS THIS PERSON WILL PASS THROUGH THE VIRUS-INFECTED BREATH IN 2 SECONDS!
YOU CAN BREATHE OUT THE VIRUS EVEN IF YOU ARE ASYMPTOMATIC!
LILI TODD

comic by Lili Todd (@lilitoddart) & Rohwer Lab at San Diego State University, 2021

- NOTE! -

newer research suggests that during face-to-face encounters, the peak of viral exposure risk happens within the first **5 seconds**.

THE BOTTOM LINE

we're generally safer outside because the air disperses & dilutes the virus more quickly...

...but catching COVID-19 outdoors is still very possible.

walking through busier areas, attending outdoor events, & even just talking to someone can all result in infection.

well-fitting, high-filtration masks from trusted sources are our best tool for protecting ourselves & our communities from COVID-19.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

taking our masks on & off can affect the seal, letting in more unfiltered air. it can also leave us unprepared if we suddenly run into people.

inhaling cold air can increase our chances of getting sick. the cold impairs our nasal passages' natural antiviral mechanisms.

AIRBORNE ILLNESS ISN'T THE ONLY REASON TO MASK OUTSIDE

masks can help protect against:

- wildfire smoke & poor air quality
- allergens *(like pollen)*
- cold air *(can aggravate asthma & cause discomfort)*
- state surveillance *(especially at protests)*

SELECT STUDIES

these studies explore the transmission of COVID-19 outdoors & related topics.

"Peak risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection within 5 s of face-to-face encounters"

"Cold exposure impairs extracellular vesicle swarm–mediated nasal antiviral immunity"

"Effect of Crowd Density, Wind Direction, and Air Temperature on the Configuration of Individual Human Breathing Zones in a Semi-outdoor Environment"

"Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Infection in a Centralized Quarantine Location"

"An Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Subvariant BA.2.76 in an Outdoor Park"

MASK BLOC SEATTLE

Mask Bloc Seattle
is a COVID-informed mutual aid group primarily made up of queer, disabled, & chronically ill people.

We are committed to creating the conditions necessary for our collective liberation.

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